

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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PASS COMMERCE / BEWT

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TAGS: ETRD US UR

SUBJ: CONTINUED SOVIET PRESS REPORTING ON TRADE BILL HEARINGS

REF: MOSCOW 4758

1. IZVESTIYA EVENING APRIL TWO AND PRAVDA MORNING APRIL THREE CONTINUE SERIES OF SOVIET PRESS REPORTS OVER PAST FEW WEEKS ON TESTIMONY BEFORE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE BY US BUSINESS LEADERS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FAVORING "NORMALIZATION" OF US-SOVIET ECONOMIC RELATIONS THROUGH EXTENSION OF CREDITS AND MFN.

2. BOTH ARTICLES, BASED ON TASS DESPATCHES DATED WASHINGTON LEAD OFF WITH STATEMENT THAT TESTIMONY BEFORE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE CONTINUES TO INDICATE GREAT INTEREST OF AMERICAN BUSINESS CIRCLES IN EXPANSION OF MUTUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS TRADE WITH USSR.

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3. ARTICLES REPORT STATEMENT BY R. CROSS, VICE PRESIDENT

OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MACHINE TOOL FIRMS, THAT PRESENT LIMITATIONS, A VESTIGE OF THE "COLD WAR," PLACE SOVIET GOODS IN UNEQUAL POSITION ON AMERICAN MARKET, AND EXPRESSING ASSOCIATION'S SUPPORT FOR US GOVERNMENT POSITION THAT SOVIET UNION SHOULD BE GRANTED SAME CONDITIONS ACCORDED TO OTHER COUNTRIES. CROSS IS ALSO QUOTED AS SAYING THAT AMENDMENT IN TRADE BILL WHICH WOULD INTERFERE WITH ESTABLISHMENT OF NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE USSR AND THE USA WOULD BE "A BIG STEP BACKWARD IN OUR EFFORTS TO NORMALIZE AND EXPAND INTERNATIONAL TRADE RELATIONS."

4. S. OLSON, CHAIRMAN OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF CHESAPEAKE CORPORATION OF VIRGINIA, D. HANNIGAN, PRESIDENT OF INTERNATIONAL PAPER COMPANY, AND E. RHODES, PRESIDENT OF AMERICAN CHAIN ASSOCIATION, ALSO CITED AS FAVORING NORMALIZATION OF TRADE WITH USSR AND REJECTING LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD "TRY TO INFLUENCE INTERNAL POLICIES OF OTHER COUNTRIES."

5. ONLY DISSENT REPORTED TO BE DECLARATION TO COMMITTEE BY CONGRESSMAN BLACKBURN WHO SPOKE AGAINST TRADE WITH SOVIET UNION.
STOESSEL

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